

# Details of Big Torrance Magnavox Contract Given

Details of the \$1,299,630 contract awarded last week to The Magnavox Co. by the U. S. Army Missile Command were revealed by the company yesterday in New York. Award of the contract was announced in Sunday's Torrance HERALD.

The new order calls for the Magnavox Co. to supply a data retrieval system that will allow the selection and reproduction of any one of 400,000 missile drawings in a matter of minutes.

Work on the contract will be accomplished in the Magnavox Research Laboratories in Tor-

rance. Twenty-two months have been allowed for delivery of the system.

**CALLED THE Automated Engineering Drawing Storage and Retrieval System** it will store missile documentary drawings on film "chips." The system to be shipped to Redstone is an outgrowth of two Magnavox developments, MEDIA and Magnacard. MEDIA (Magnavox Electronic Data Image Apparatus) is a low-cost graphic information storage and retrieval system, capable of selecting one page out of

any size file and delivering a full-size reproduction in less than one minute. Magnacard is a system where information (over 700 alpha-numeric characters) is recorded on one inch by three inch cards which are sorted, selected, merged, and collated at the rate of 5,400 cards per minute.

The new system works this way: an operator can obtain any drawing by placing a coded punch card in the system or type the drawing reference number directly into the system. The drawing is transferred photographically from the

film "chip" to an aperture card. (An aperture card is a punch card with an insert of photographic film.) Processing takes about 60 seconds.

**ONCE THE reproduction** is completed the film "chip" is returned to the file and the requester gets the aperture card. From it, copies of the drawing can be enlarged or shown on a projector.

The contract will be administered by the Missile Command's Directorate of Procurement and Production. The sys-

tem will be a part of the Directorate Documentation Branch.

The Directorate said that at present it has a master file of about 1,500,000 engineering drawings of missile parts and assemblies that are in frequent demand. These drawings are filed on aperture cards.

The card on a particular drawing may be in demand by several persons at one time. Often the drawing is required at a contractor's plant or another installation. The new system will remedy this by not only providing fast access to any drawing but also provid-

ing an unlimited number of aperture cards containing the drawing.

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